GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2882
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
ANTI POACHING MECHANISM FOR TIGERS
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to hold a meeting with leading environmental NGOs to devise measures to tighten the anti-poaching mechanism for tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the various anti-poaching measures to save tigers in the country have proved to be ineffective in the past few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the matter has also been discussed with various State Governments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) & (b): As indicated in the National Wildlife Action Plan (2002 - 2016) synergy with Non Governmental Organisations forms an integral part of conservation initiatives of the Union Government to ensure peoples` support and participation, with their representation in various committees including the Steering Committee of Project Tiger.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise

(e) & (f) Since implementation of wildlife conservation schemes is done by States, such issues are discussed with State Governments time and again for appraisal and review, followed by directives from the Union Government as and when necessary.

(g) The action taken by the Union Government are as follows :

The safeguards taken by the Government to conserve wildlife and its habitat in Tiger Reserves include: -

i) Assessing the impact of any developmental project on wildlife and its habitat.

ii) According legal protection to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

iii) Providing financial and technical help to States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection and improvement of habitat for wild animals.

iv) Empowering the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(vi) A National Conference of Forest and Environment Ministers of State Governments was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001, wherein it was resolved to organise the existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control within and outside protected areas.

(vii) During IX Plan period, the area of Tiger Reserves has increased from 33,167 sq. km. to 37,761 sq. km.